Redigging the Old Well

~~Digging again the wells of spiritual living.~~

Gen.26:18 And Isaac digged again the wells of water wich they had digged in the days of Abraham his father; for the Phillistines had stopped them after the death of Abraham.

The old well on the home place, now covered by a house and in disuse.

One of my first sermons on the above text.

The importance of wells in the days of Abraham and Isaac.

Wells choked up and run dry where water is needed are a sad sight to see.

But a more tragic sight than choked up wells are the souls of men which do not flow forth the waters of divine life. Our Xn view makes it plain to us that each person is related to the great world of Spirit, that each person can contact the generous wealth of God's own life, if he will. But alas, in how many of us, it would seem, that we have become dried up in our souls, until we are no longer able to quench the thirst for the higher things of life. And how many have builded their earthly houses over their spiritual sources to the utter neglect and disuse of them!

The Bible speaks of us when we are what God would have us to be as "wells of living water": and again it s speaks of us when we have nothing to do with God as "well without water".

We shall spend our meditative time this morning by considering what makes wells run dry and what means we ma may take to make them flow again.

I. How does it come about that wells run dry? For one thin thing, wells, like human souls, run dry as the result of neglect.

1. Dust and debris sink to bottom and ~~okoko~~ stop up the apertures thru which the water comes. Constant use of the well kkeps it running, but steady disuse of it soon stops its flow. It is the samw with our souls. When we fail to call upon them for our higher powers they soon cease to flow. The most fatal influence we can exercise upon our spiritual natures is simply to let our days slip by without any holy stir within us.

2. Sometimes a subterranean change cuts off the source of water supply in a well. The springs that went dry after the earthquake, in the Santa Cruz Mts.

In like manner souls sometime cease to function.

2. Have you not noticed persons suddenly change in their whole spiritual attitude toward life? Here is a man who has always been kind and generous-hearted, always happy and cheerful and ready to help. You have kno known him to be that way ever since you were acquainted with h him. But one day you meet him and he shocks you for he is not the same man. His voice has hardened. He speaks cynically, even brutally. He is not the same person at all. What has happened? Perhaps some bitter experience has come to him that cuts off his soul from the higher powers of life. Some betrayal, perhaps, that has shifted the very basis of his life. Perhaps some love or friendship has failed him. Perhaps he has discovered some evil in one whom he loves, or perhaps he has discovered himself to be evil! Anyway, he is no longer what he was once, kindness and goodness no longer flow from him.

3. The misuse of wells by passers-by often stops them up. They may throw in dirt and stones, or their leavings. Likewise the life of human souls may be hindered and slain by the mistreatment of others. It may be the deliberate doings of Phillistine-like persons who take special delight in pulling a person down to the lower levels. It may be the surroundings of those who by careless indifference to the higher things of life discourage spiritual living in ourselves.

Then there are social and econimic conditions which make it difficult for some, if not impossible, to live on a spiritual plane. Our social conditions and surroundings have a great deal to do with our spiritual living.

II. How, then can we prevent the wells of our higher being from going dry?

The opposite of neglect is attention. By giving sufficient time and attention to the matter. "Wherewith shall a young man cleanse the evil of his way? by taking heed thereto according to the word of God." Just as you grow your garden of beautiful flowers by properly caring for them- by keeping the ground spaded and free from weeds, and by watering them when the ground is dry, and by trimming and transplanting, etc., so you must care for your soul-life if you would keep it ever flowing in goodness and kindness and loving service.

So many claim they have'nt time for such matters. That is not true. The truth of the matter is that they are not interested. The average "I have'nt time" means "I dont want to, dont bother me".

~~/Ffff~~. Caring for the soul is a comparatively simple matter, so much so that many think it not worth while. Dr.Goddard s.experience with the Binet tests.

Three steps to take.

Realization-God is goodness and truth and love. God is health and strength and power. God is happiness and peace harmony. God has created me in His image has made it possible for me to live and move and have my being in Him; All that God is and has can come into my life to be the living waters of my soul. I am a joint-heir with Chrst and by grace have access to all the rich store-houses of the Almighty. I need not be poor when my Father has plenty.
The first step is realization.

The second step is commitment thru Trust.
" Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be sav saved."
Trust God for his goodness and truth and love. Trust Him for health and strength and power. Trust Him for your own happiness and peace and harmony.

The third step is Application and practice. Put your realization and trust to good use. Practice it daily in all your undertakings. Engage in your undertakings and tasks, in your eating and drinking, in your pleasures and associations, and in your sleeping and restings as unto the Lord, in the full consciousness that you are a child of God.

Is this all we have to do to inherit the kingdom of God? Yes, this is all. And as a result do we get so much from God? Yes, when we do our part faithfully, God never fails us.
If does'nt seem possible, but it works!
How can I best learn to take these three steps?
Thru Bible study and prayer, for this specific purpose
Bible uninteresting because we dont go to it for a definite purpose. Praying is a bore when it serves no definite end.